

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 014356

R 021754Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5304

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2137

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO XF

OKSUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN: THE MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING MY APRIL 30 AUDIENCE, KING HASSAN DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE ASKED THAT HIS REMARKS NOT BE CIRCULATED ROUTINELY IN THE DEPT. AND EXPRESSED DESIRE THEY BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF SECRETARY.

2. KEY QUESTION BEING ASKED IN MIDDLE EAST AT THIS TIME, KING SAID, IS WHETHER VIETNAM SITUATION REPRESENTED TOTAL ABANDONMENT OF PROBLEM BY U.S. OR STRATEGIC RETREAT.

KING FELT PERSONALLY SITUATION SHOULD BE SEEN AS STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL. U.S., HE ARGUED, SHOULD NOT ABANDON ITS WORLD ROLE, AND AMEGKRANS SHOULD REALIZE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO EMERGE FROM CURRENT SITUATION IN A STRONG POSITION. WITH RESPECT TO MIDEAST, KING NOTED, NO PEACE IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT.

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3. IMPORTANT THING, KING BELIEVED, WAS FOR U.S. TO MOVE

FORWARD TOWARDS MIDEAST SOLUTION IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL. CLOSER COORDINATION WITH LATTER WOULD BE A SENSIBLE MOVE BOTH IN TERMS OF ATTITUDES IN THE U.S. AND IN THE WORLD AT LARGE. CONCERTING MEASURES, KING CONYENDED, WOULD SHOW AMERICANS AND OTHERS THAT U.S. NOT ACTING IN ISOLATION. SPECIFICALLY, A U.S. POLICY OF WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH OTHER PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN SEEKING PROGRESS IN MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE USEFUL IN COUNTERING EXTREMIST ZIONIST LOBBIES.

4. IN DISCUSSING PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, KING SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW SOVIETS AND CHINESE REACT. AT MOMENT, HE COMMENTED, SOVIETS SEEM TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO IMPERATIVES OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THAN CHINESE, WHOSE ATTITUDE MAY BE SHAPED IN PART BY WISH TO BE DIFFERENT FROM RUSSIANS. DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN TWO COMMUNIST GIANTDN HE ADDED, NOT NECESSARILY BAD THING.

5. KING STRESSED HIS VIEW THAT WE SHOULD ACT QUICKLY BECAUSE SITUATION IN REGION LIKELY TO BE LESS ADVANTAGEOUS IN FUTURE THAN IT IS NOW. SADAT AND ASAD, HE SAID, WERE BOTH MEN OF MODERNIZATION, THE BEST WE COULD REASONABLY HOPE TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH. BOTH ARE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO PRODUCE RESULTS, AND SADAT'S STATUS PARTICULARLY PARLOUS GIVEN POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EGYPT. WERE SADAT TO GO, KING OBSERVED, ASAD WOULD NOT LAST LONG. TURNING TO SAUDI ARABIA, KING SAID THAT KHALID DOES NOT SEEM TO WANT TO BE KING AND WILL PROBABLY BE GONE FROM SCENE IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. FAHD OF COURSE IS STRONGMAN, BUT MANY OTHER PRINCES, WHOSE VIEWS NOT WELL KNOWN, WAITING IN WINGS. ALL THIS POINTED UP NECESSITY OF OUR MOVING BEFORE CONDITIONS BECOME LEDIMAVORABLE.

6. KING ALSO SPOKE OF NECESSITY OF OUR REACHING SOME ACCOMODATION WITH PALESTINIANS. HOW THIS HAPPENS, HE SAID, "IS YOUR AFFAIR," BUT HAPPEN IT MUST. IN DISCUSSING PALESTINIAN QUESTION, KING CONCEDED THAT IN TERMS TIMING, FIVE-POWER CONSULTATION

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WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PRECEDE INITIATIVE ON OUR PART VIS-A-VIS PALESTINIANS.
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